

COMMISSION ON AGING

Minutes

October 1, 2012

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Nina Daniel, Peggy Anderson, Bruce Lorentzen, and Laura Smits. Senior Center Director: Wendy Petty, Social Services Director: Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Pam Wilson, Dial-A-Ride driver: Gordon Green, SWCAA liaison: Meta Schroeter, and Don Gumaer.
Helen convened the meeting at 9:20.

There were congratulations all around with deep appreciation expressed especially to Wendy, and to her husband Jim, about the success of the Sherman Alden Classic Car Show and Center fundraiser that was held on Sunday, September 23rd. Nina reported on behalf of the Friends that the event cleared over \$15,000.

September Minutes: Minutes were approved by consensus.

SWCAA Report: Meta reported that the agency had its meeting on September 12th in Bridgeport. She explained that the group rotates its meetings throughout the year and that Weston's turn will be in June 2013. "Re-admission" issues are being discussed by all of the Fairfield County Hospitals to comply with the new health care law that begins on October 13th. Meta reported that all centers and towns are trying to contain costs in light of fewer resources available—affecting all areas of need including meals, transportation, and energy assistance. Senior housing development plans at Barons South in Westport have been making their way through the approval process and building may begin soon. Half of the units will be designated as affordable. Meta warned that many area seniors have been targets of scams. Discussion ensued about how to make seniors more aware of this problem.

Social Services Report: Charlene reported that Wilton Meadows has capped our "meals on wheels" at 14—as a result, she has four households who cannot receive them. She has a potential provider, but the cost will be much higher—from \$3.75 to \$7.75. Charlene is trying to make the meals more affordable by charging full price to those who can afford it, so there will be meals for those who cannot. Other sources for these meals such as the United Way and the Salvation Army are no longer available. Charlene reported that fund-raising for

Social Services through Weston tax bills is two thirds less than last year. The United Way has sold a building, and as a result, there is a “Legacy Fund” for Westport and Weston. Charlene is working on securing Weston’s portion, but Westport has the advantage since they have a full-time staff. Charlene is working on it as time allows.

Senior Center Director Report: Wendy reported that she and Pam are wrapping up the car show. Ten new people have signed up for T’ai Chi—and they will also be starting an intermediate class. New classes are coming. Furniture will be moved into the new Center space as soon as possible. Discussion ensued about how to deal with the costs of a growing senior population.

Friends of the Senior Center: Nina reported that the Friends are planning a fund-raising letter to be sent before the end of the year. Woody is doing a cost analysis. Nina reiterated that the money raised at the car show was designated for the senior center itself. Nina said the group is planning a “Senior Lifestyles Fair,” tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2013.

Charlene mentioned that the “Greens” runs a great ongoing program that may be of interest to our seniors, a “Memory & Cognitive Ability” screening. Wendy will put the information in the newsletter.

Helen mentioned that the budget cycle begins in November and that we can help with planning for full-time hours for the Center. Helen asked the commission to think about related issues and Center needs for next month’s meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits